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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Actions mailed on May 9, 2003 and February 23, 2004, wherein Claims 1-24 were rejected. Claims 5 and 15 have been cancelled and Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-24 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action dated May 9, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 5 and 15 as being unsupported by the specification. Please cancel Claims 5 and 15.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102

On page 3 of the Office Action dated May 9, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C § 102 as being anticipated by Kerns et al.

Applicants are filing with this amendment a Rule 1.131 affidavit eliminating the Examiner's rejection based on the Kerns et al. reference. The remaining cited art fails to disclose all of the limitations of Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-24. Thus, Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-24 are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

Examiner's Objection to Claim Format

On page 2 of the Office Action dated February 23, 2004, the Examiner objected to the Claim format. Applicants have addressed the Examiners objections to Claims 1, 11, and 20 using the correct (previously presented) claim format.

CONCLUSION

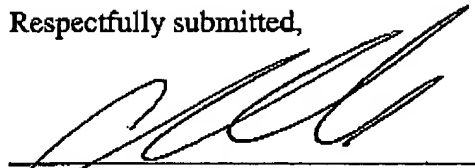
The entire Office Actions dated May 9, 2003 and Office Action dated February 23, 2004, have been carefully reviewed and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-24 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

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If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, as well as the fee for a one-month extension of time, please charge to Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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